Software Underground

Board Meeting

29 Aug 2023

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 15.00 UTC on Tuesday 29 Aug 2023. Quorum is 5.

Chair: The chair is Matt.

Regrets:

Present: Matt, Maria Cecilia (Sissi), Santi, Dieter, Leo (we have a quorum!)

Visiting:

Previous meeting

Previous meeting minutes are on GitHub:
https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/blob/main/board

Remarks

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Admin

FYI added new directors to Google Calendar, Google Drive folder, Squarespace, Wave (accounting).

Do we want to add anyone to X (Twitter) or LinkedIn? Do we even want to be on X any more?

Remarks:

- **Audience in LinkedIn != audience in Mastodon or Twitter**
- **Should we keep these accounts and link to other sites in which we are more active?**

- ~~Should Swung start a Mastodon... account? Server??~~ Could be fun to have a tutorial to see if others are curious -- look at setting up a small server -- Mastohost, small account, then a 30 min tutorial

Financial support for BIRS meeting

Santi Soler previously proposed Swung supporting this conference, and we backed it via consensus in #swung-org. The conference has now happened and we need to decide how to split the funds between the 2 beneficiaries. The board can see the conversation in **#swung-org-private** (contains PII so is private).

Proposals:

1. Split the 2000 CAD equally between the two beneficiaries.
2. Allocate the proposed $660 + $140 (meals) + $130 (original swag allocation) = $930 to one beneficiary, and the remaining $1070 to the other one, whose expenses were higher.

Remarks:

- **We had consensus on going forward with option 2**
- Matt needs bank name & address, branch/sort number, account number, IBAN (if there is one), SWIFT code (if there is one), person's full name and address -- ask their bank if unsure. If prefer email **matt@softwareunderground.org but Slack DM is fine**
- Santi will reach them out with the decision and ask for these details (cc Matt).

The end of Slack, the beginning of...

We were on an annual plan, up for renewal on 25 August. As they warned us, the bill is to increase because of the way they count active users. And as we anticipated, it is more than doubling. The renewal will be USD 5755, or about CAD 7800. This is more than the last 2 years combined (CAD 4175 and CAD 2236). We therefore ended annual renewals and moved back to monthly (monthly bill will be USD 590, but we had some credit so the first month was only USD 190).

We have more or less decided to move to another platform. The options seem to be Matrix/Element or Mattermost. Some board members, especially Dieter, have previous expressed a preference for Mattermost, as they use it for other purposes and like it. After

looking at them both, albeit briefly, I (Matt) too prefer Mattermost as it seems the most similar to Slack.

Discussion: There has been quite a bit of discussion in @swung-org, please catch up if you get the chance: https://app.slack.com/client/T094HBB9T/C0138FEJRUZ

Data: Matt started a download of public channels in Slack on 25 August. It will not include DMs of course. Potentially we could find a way to make this archive available, if desired.

=> https://docs.mattermost.com/onboard/migrating-to-mattermost.html#migrate-from-slack

Pricing deals: Matt asked Element and Mattermost about nonprofit pricing and the short story is that neither one has a program that suits us. Basically, they both offer a free tier with self-hosting and suggested we use that. Matt has not approached Slack for a counter-offer, so to speak.

Other: Joergen Kvalsvik (@jokva) has been offering help with instantiating and maintaining a solution, eg Mattermost on AWS.

Remarks:

- **SHUTDOWN**
  - **Turn off channel creation**
  - **Archive all channels except #general, #random, #hello (say)**
  - **Conspicuous "go here" notices**
  - **Change links on softwareunderground.org & elsewhere**
  - **Revisit our Privacy and T&C etc**
- **Hosting our own Mattermost**
  - **Joergen's idea sounds great!**
  - **Ask him for a proposal with a budget.**
  - **Track work hours in case they exceed the initial budget.**
  - **We would like to have a few volunteers involved to have more people to solve issues.**
  - **Evaluate hosting solutions, preferably in Europe (regulatory regime), and for a sentence about GDPR, privacy etc.**
  - **Ask him to keep a changelog of the server, ansible script or something like that that self -documents.**
  - **Ask him about options for backups and encryption.**
  - **Idea: store old Slack messages in a 'dead' channel in Mattermost. It would help to search old stuff easier than navigating the archives.**

Events

Repro zoo, 26 & 27 August and expanded to all week (this week, at the time of this meeting), is very low-key. Basically Matt didn't really organize anything, but just talk about it a few times. But it was a nice excuse to get the repo sorted https://app.slack.com/client/T094HBB9T/CDB2YUM0F -- in particular, using Issues to nominate papers to reproduce. He even closed one issue!

Transform: week of Monday 25 September -- it seemed wise to postpone this, as it is around the time we will be migrating the platform. We discussed briefly in #swung-org and messaged the group on Monday.

Remarks:

- **Leo mentioned Rescience, a GitHub journal ReScience C - this is very nice, what would it take to make Repro Zoo docs a bit more readable (most right now are a bit thin, but a template might help regularize them a bit, make them more readable.)**
- **We had 14 tutorials so far on the agenda, we can pick TRANSFORM up again in the next meeting (Sep) and decide if we go for December or April.**

Any other business

None.

Remarks:

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Next meeting

None.

Remarks:

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Parking lot / next meeting

These items will go into the next board meeting(s):

- July/August: add new directors to Twitter and/or LinkedIn?

- We still need to update the tech spreadsheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mNAGEgQNvfZem5zY38u9etn2O0aFWbE2zJLcMEdiL4Y/edit?usp=sharing

- Check the status of receipt for Swung membership/donations (so it can potentially be deducted / charged to the employer like the membership of other professional societies).

- pyOpenSci is restarting and wants to work with SwUng. Leah Wasser is leading it and on SwUng.